The Mat-Su Monitor

Volume 1 No. 10 December 1, 1994

The Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College, Palmer, Alaska

Board of Regents considers eliminating consolidation cap

Besides raising tuition again, with a projected increase of 4 percent in 1996, the Board of Regents is considering eliminating the consolidation cap. The way it is now, after thirteen credits, students do not have to pay for additional credits. If University Administration gets its way, this will no longer be so.

Students who carry a heavy class load benefit from this. On one side of the argument, why should part-time students have to pay more for their education than full-time students?

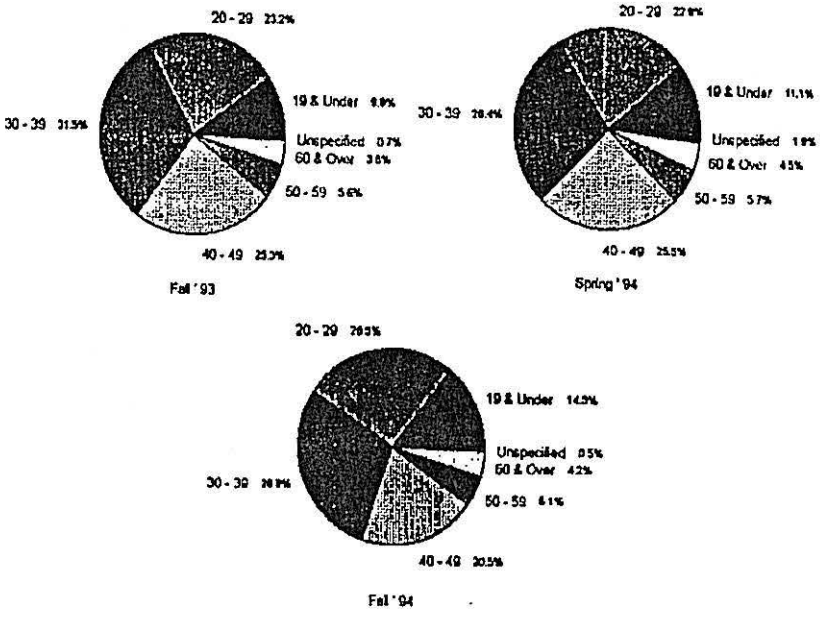
On the flip side, do students who take extra classes to save money get the full benefits out of their classes? Are they recieving a complete education? Administration thinks that eliminating the cap will generate 2.4 million dollars a year for the University. But will students even continue to take more classes if they have to pay for them?

This issue affects us all, if not directly, indirectly. The best way to have your voice heard on the subject is to attend the Board of Regents meeting on Friday, December 2, from 8:00-9:30 am, at the University of Anchorage, in the Campus Center South Cafeteria.

A younger trend at MSC

By Amy Menerey

This year I noticed a change in the student body here at Mat-Su College. In the past I was one of many "older" returning students, however, lately I feel outnumbered by a lot of young, fresh-out-of-highschool people. Is this just my imagination? I decided to find out. Here are graphs for the last three semesters based on information given to me by the Registration Office. I was right! The percentage of younger students is on the rise. Does this change things here at Mat-Su? How does this affect everyone here: the students, the teachers, the staff? More next issue.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

OPINION

The age of apathy

By Kathleen Murphy

A headline in the Northern Lights last month read "Student apathy prompts USUAA to declare state of emergency." The article stated that eight assembly seats were empty and that students didn't want to get involved. Although the situation has improved somewhat, there is still not enough student involvement. MSC has the same problem with five senator seats remaining unfilled. In fact, it appears that the people of the State of Alaska don't care much about their government either by the number of voters showing up at past polls. In the recent November 8 election, however, 64.5% of registered Alaskan voters turned out at the polls, or to be more exact , 216,988 people.

There seems to be lack of trust involving elected officials, which is not suprising. All of the apparent untruths of the past should make people suspicious of politicians. I often hear claims that, "the voters are angry." I don't think the voters are angry as much as they are frightened. The voters are afraid of escalating crime, afraid of what might happen with health reform, scared that there might not be any money left in social security by the time they need it. And fright can easily be vented through anger.

What worries me is that there also seems to be an increasing lack of trust in one's fellow man, or woman. This is a shame. My friends tell me that I am living in a fantasy world because I like to believe that there is a brotherhood within our country. I want to believe that people generally care about each other, watch out for each other, and want to help one another. Friends tell me this isn't so. They say that everyone is only out for their own interest, and to get what you have. They say I should trust no one and "watch out for people."

see apathy, page 5

Letters to the editor

Editor:

Fact: Everyone wants/needs more moolah.
Fact: The pot is empty.
Fact: We will only be bled more, either way.
Fact: UA Administration has heard it all before. We keep forgetting.

Opinion: Only the emotional argument will win the cap for us. Counter proposals, such as differential tuition, grandfathered tuition, a compromise cap, leaving the cap, and getting more out of the $$$/credit--these get us nowhere fast. They've heard it all before and they don't want to hear it again. Also, simple is best. Why add too much curry when the recipe seems to work?

To do: Where do the Regents stand? Will they support the cap or are they ready to go along with Komisar and ditch it? Inquiring minds want to know. Who will be the two new faces that replace Helmricks and STITHAM? Some more of Hickel's choices? I'll lay odds that they could care less about a cap. Do we get Knowles' appointments? Different story.

Idea: Bring the students to the Board. Tell Joe Schmoe what is about to happen to his wallet and "wallah" - Joe is crying his heart out. Maybe it's seventy students at the Board meeting, each one testifying during public comments. Maybe it's a video like the "Vote No on the Capital Move" thing where you have two-second sound bites for each poor homeless Alaskan student. It's not

see Consolidation Cap, page 6

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Kathleen Murphy--Editor
Carolyn Long--Arts Editor
Amy Menerey--Copy Editor
Michelle M. McGehee--Staff Secretary
K. J. Stevens, Amy Menerey, Wynona K. Ralph, Shirley Hendrix: Guest Columnists

The Mat-Su Monitor welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columnists. Please see personnel in the Student Government Office for more information or drop material in our mail box at the College or mail to PO Box 2889, Palmer, Ak., 99645.

ARTS PAGE

THE ARTIST TEACHER

by Wynona K. Ralph

Do you know the difference between the teacher you remember and all the rest that were in your life? The teacher you remember was an artist; the others were craftspersons.

The teachers who were craftspersons used their techniques and skills to produce a functional end result, a student who could read, write, and do arithmetic. Just as a craftsperson generally follows a preconceived idea, the crafts-teacher had a preconceived idea of what you--the student--would become.

The artist, on the other hand, has the ability to generate new ideas and new directions. The artist is not only innovative, but unique and creative. Artists use their skills and abilities to touch the mind and emotions of their audience. The artist-teachers use their abilities to touch the intellect and passions of their students.

The teachers who were artists wanted more from you than just an end result. They wanted new directions and new ideas. They were interested in what made you tick and they pushed you to higher levels of understanding about yourself and your environment.

They helped you paint yourself on the canvas of life by getting to know you, getting you to express yourself freely, and using this expressed interest as a basis for your growth in learning. They genuinely cared.

Educators must believe in what they are doing and they must develop techniques which must be worked on continuously, but technique alone is not enough. They must form a truthful conviction that will stand the test of time and this conviction or philosophy must be felt by their students. Just as artists have an influence on their audiences, teachers have an influence on their students.

You remember that one special teacher because he or she had a talent to create in you an aesthetic response. Just as you remember that special book, poem, song, or painting, you remember that special teacher and his or her contribution to your life.

The good artist creates works that stand the test of time. The good artist-teachers create in their students outcomes that will stand the test of a lifetime. *Ms. Ralph is a student at MSC.*

RUNNING TO EMPTINESS

by Sam Blumenstein

I ran so fast I wasn't sure what I was doing.
I ran. Running, I wondered why?
Why am I running to emptiness" To blank feelings?
Running to those pretentious words
that run around in the back of my mind.

Does she love me for me, or for what I type onto the screen?
Was I true? What is it that makes love so blind?
I could not see her false accusations, though true to her.
I was in love, but then again, it was with
someone to whom I could not put a face.

I was running to my own inner feelings, someone to whom I could confide my innermost desires and fallacious fears.

I thought I was running to; instead, I ended up running from. Was I wrong?
Running for all the wrong reasons.
Running to hurt, feel the burn! Harder, harder!

Damn, love hurts.

MSC ARTISTS IN ANCHORAGE SHOW

MSC art students Joyce Reynolds, Kim Donofrio, Karin Moel, and Janet Stuart together with students from UAA will be displaying their works at the International Gallery's December show, "Retrofitting." These students were nominated by MSC and UAA art professors to be included in the show.

"Retrofitting" will open on December 9 and run through January 6. The opening is from 5:30-8:30 pm on the 9th and the public is invited. The types of works will include such media as sculpture, fiber, painting, mixed media, and photography.

The gallery is located in Anchorage across from the PAC and above Sacks Cafe on 5th Ave. For more information, call the gallery at 258-0307.

Spotlight on Science

Selections from Speech Class

By Kathleen Murphy

For more than a decade, with increasing success, molecular biologists have been struggling to answer the question of why we age and what can be done to slow the process down. On the basis or current experiments, several scientists predict that within a generation or two, man's maximum life span of 120 years could be extended for decades, possibly even centuries. Dr. Michael Jazwinski, researcher of aging at the Louisiana Medical Center states, "It's possible that some people alive today may still be alive 400 years from now." Could these scientists possibly be right? It sounds more like science fiction than science and technology. But there are researchers today who insist that they are onto something more than the concept for a mad scientist movie, and they have evidence to prove it.

There are some anti-aging drugs being used in experiments today, but as of yet, none have been FDA approved for use in the general public. Still, Americans find a way to get their hands on them. Scientists say these people have lost their minds. These drugs are still in experimental stages. It's dangerous to take any of them on your own.

According to Time Magazine, researcher Michael Jazwinski spent years in study before he found a gene that can extend the life span of a yeast cell by 30%. After cloning it, he went looking for an identical gene in humans. In 1992, he found a gene in human DNA that closely resembles the gene in yeast. Since then, he has been studying the human gene. Meanwhile his team has discovered 3 more longevity genes in yeast, one of which can nearly double the life span of a cell while causing it to retain its youthful ability to replicate. Researchers believe they can manipulate our cells and add hundreds of years to our lives. They believe that there is a kind of on\off switch which could possibly be controlled. For example: in wound healing, cells multiply to repair the injury, then stop multiplying when the job is done. Some scientists believe they will be able to manipulate human DNA in a way that would heal the effects of aging.

The study of aging is called Gerontology. Gerontologists view aging as a disease to be cured rather than a natural factor of human life. Dr. Jazwinski, along with others, believes that the so-called "clock of aging" resides in the human DNA. However, other scientists believe it lies in the area of the brain.

The human growth hormone (hGH) is a substance produced by the pituitary gland, just under the brain. It is best known among scientists as the hormone responsible for the beanstalk-like growth of childhood. Production of hGH tapers off gradually after middle age. Some scientists believe that this shortage of the hormone accounts for some of the physical deterioration that comes with old age. For years there was no way of knowing whether hGH would reverse the effects of aging because the only way to get it was from pituitaries of cadavers, a process which yielded barely enough of the substance for those most in need--children with malfunctioning pituitaries. But in 1979 scientists found a way to reproduce hGH and they can now make bottomless cups of the stuff.

In a study published in the JAMA, gerontologist Dr. Daniel Rudman reversed the effects of aging in a group of men in their 60s and 70s. Rudman recruited 21 men and divided them into 2 groups. Members of one group injected themselves with hGH 3 times a day for 6 months. The other group was not given hGH. They were just examined once a month to see how fast they were aging. The results were startling. Some members of the control group lost muscle and bone faster than expected. But the men injected with hGH regained 10% of their muscle mass, had a 9% increase in skin thickness, and lost 14% of their body fat.

Human growth hormone is not available in the US. But Texan Howard Turney found that it is easily accessible in Mexico. So he opened a clinic called The El Dorado Rejuvenation and Longevity Institute in Playo del Carmen, about 3 miles south of Cancun. For $4,600, the clinic offers a two night stay at a five star beach front hotel, gives you a physical examination, instructs you on how to inject yourself with hGH, then sends you home with enough of the drug to last about 12 weeks. After that, El Dorado will ship an additional three month supply (federal express): $3,800 for the second supply and $2,400 for each supply thereafter. As of Dec. 1993, the clinic was supplying more than 100 clients with hGH.

There seems to be some controversy on where the clock of aging lies. Is it in the human DNA, in the area of the brain, or both? One thing for certain, there is an abundance of studies being conducted to find it, and it's possible that, as Michael Jaswinski states, "within 30 years we will be able to double, triple, even quadruple the current human maximum life span of 120 years."

The Monitor is starting a section on student's selected speeches. We would appreciate your speech from class for a future edition.

Getting things done

By K. J. Stevens

Recently I have wondered what the importance is in getting done all the things I do? There are always things to do in my life. I push myself almost to death and they still don't get done. There is always more piling up.

I find it hard to allow myself time to do something fun. After all, who would do all those things that are waiting to be done? Some people say that things are only important if YOU MAKE them important. But if I didn't do the things that need to be done, life would get behind, and others would notice too, like the people who are depending on me to be there for them.

I depend on myself for such things as getting to the store to pick up those needed items, getting my homework done, and keeping up my healthy lifestyle. Just think of all the time I'd have to spend catching up if I let things get behind instead of simply trying to stay caught up. My friends and family would never see me.

This summer, I took a few rare moments to enjoy my life and friends. I could not relax. I was worried about time running out before I could get to the rest of what had to be done. Was my house falling off the cliff while I was gone? Would dirt multiply by itself without me there to clean it? Were my parrots fallling off their perches in a state of shock because I wasn't home? Who would do the laundry and shopping and cooking if I went to a movie with my best friend?

To relax, I started hiking every weekend. Hiking is my favorite thing to do. There is no rushing or pushing to be somewhere or to get something done, no phone calls to make, and no lists to follow. I hiked about 360 miles of Alaska's beautiful back country. The peace of being alone with my own thoughts and with nature was an incredible experience. Even so, way in the back of my mind were things that needed to be done, letters to write, new perches to get for my birds, and paperwork that had already been put off for four weeks.

While out in the wilderness I decided the importance of getting done the things I do is important to me, or else I wouldn't be doing them. When things are done, I feel a sense of achievement that's important to my happiness and well being.

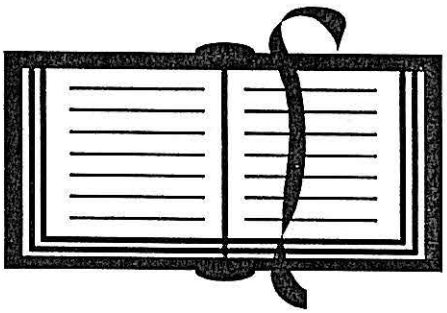
Recently I have added new things to my list of what needs to be done in my life. I wonder how much I can get done this week?

apathy

from page 2

There is still caring left in the human heart, however. In the recent case of Susan Smith, the woman who killed her two infant sons, when the public first heard about the missing boys, the Smith house was showered with flowers and gifts. People like Susan Smith reinforce feelings of mistrust in society. She betrayed our trust and aided in making the world a more cynical place. We do not need more cynicism, there is much too much already.

The sad thing is, I often see and hear things to make me think that what my friends are telling me is right. In many ways, it's a scary time we're living in. At times I want to run and hide from it all. But I keep plugging ahead, smiling at my fellow human beings, and hoping that what I have been hearing, what people have been telling me is a mistake. I'm hoping that, somehow, they're wrong, and that most people do care about the other guy.



The rising cost of textbooks

We all know that the cost of textbooks are on the rise. Each semester they seem to cost more. And often times when you have the opportunity to buy a used book, a new edition has come out, which makes it impossible.

Believe it or not, the buying of used books is one of the reasons for their rising cost. Because students are seeking out and purchasing used texts, publishing houses, which put out new books, are losing money. To compensate for the losses, the publishing houses raise the cost of textbooks.

It seems that students can't win in this situation. If you saved money last semester by purchasing a used book, it could cause the price of the book you need next semester to go up. So, in the long run, you haven't saved much, if anything.

What can we do about this? I don't know. How can we stop buying used books when at the time it saves us money needed for other things? At least one publishing house is talking about a new technique. Textbooks would be offered in a loose page form, and students would purchase binders to put the pages in. This would be cheaper, but just think about the bulk of carrying around all those binders!

It seems that no break in the cost of textbooks is in sight. If it really aggrevates you, think about this. A report on the radio claimed that the average student spends more in the vending machines per semester than they do on textbooks.

Letters to the Editor

Consolidation Cap

Cont. from page 2

the select few student leaders in their yuppie clothes and a slide projector. Think the Board cares? They're used to that. Time to wake them up, time for a 10:15 Reality Check.

Depends on who you ask. Yes or no, the cap is good for retention and quick graduation. You want a yes answer, look in the mirror. No answer? Ask Sharon Gagnon.

These few thoughts brought to you by PERSON WHO GETS FREE WAIVER, IS GRADUATING, AND COULD CARE LESS. Oh, was that me talking?

Brian Brubaker
Net Coordinator
UAF Student

Concern over agriculture program

To: The Mat-Su Monitor

Self-preservation is the most important instinct to the human race. Humans need food to survive, thus we need a strong agricultural program throughout the United States. We can live without washing machines and automobiles. Some people think we can even live without TV's! But we can't live without food.

Alaskans eat, therefore Alaskans also need agriculture. Therefore we need people who know how to "do" agriculture. There are three ways Alaskans learn how to "do" agriculture: from apprenticeship (which is rapidly becoming an outdated practice because of the new technology in the field), from a college in Alaska, and from a college outside of Alaska. There is nothing wrong with letting our prospective agriculture students out of the state to learn their trade, but there is a problem with getting them back. It is known that when students leave their respective homes to study in another place, only a small portion return to their communities.

If the agriculture program in Alaska was cancelled, as some people at MSC favor, what would happen to our food industry? No matter what your major, you still have to eat, and you still depend on agriculture. We can survive on imported products, but it would be much better to be self-sufficient. We can enjoy oranges from Florida, grapes from California, and apples from Washington, but to be secure in the knowledge that we can survive without outside help is confidence indeed.

Some questionable statistics seem to show numbers of agriculture students dropping. I call them questionable because they fail to include the numbers of students who dropped from the overall student body, only agriculture students were represented. We should be enhancing the agriculture program, not deleting it.

To date, all of the agriculture classes are at night; this greatly complicates our schedules. Another problem is that without proper advice, seeds are scheduled to be planted in mid-winter, only to shrivel and die. This has frustrated, and all but defeated, the morale of agriculture students and instructors alike. We have not, however, given in to applied pressure. We still have the will to fight for and protect our futures as well as Alaska's.

There are other countries which have climates similar to ours and have a thriving agriculture industry. We need to discover their secrets and work with them to find ways to improve our own curriculum. The knowledge is out there, and with Alaska's unique climate and unspoiled resources, there are countless opportunities that we can't ignore.

Next time you eat a baked potato, enjoy cold milk on your morning cereal, or brag about Alaska's giant vegetables, remember where these products came from, and the people who made them possible. And remember that most of us probably wouldn't even be Alaskan if it weren't for our pioneering agriculturists. Think about it, and protect not only Alaskan heritage, but a full belly with your support.

Dancing Feather

Rebuttal

by Shelia Keyser and Glenn Massay, (assessment committee members)

The program assessment working group was given a difficult assignment in an unreasonably short amount of time. The non-Anchorage working group covered campuses in Kodiak, Valdez, Kenai, Homer as well as Mat-Su. Each program was scrutinized by several criteria so the working group could come up with a decision.

In response to the letter, as was mentioned, very little that Alaskans eat is provided in Alaska. That will probably never change because Alaska weather conditions do not make a wide variety available to us.

Eliminating the Agriculture progam will not make a difference in Alaskans being able to eat. Most Alaskans depend on major grocery stores for their sustenance.

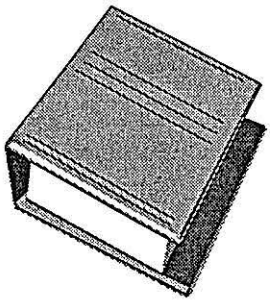
The last point to be discussed is there has been a noticeable increase of graduates due to scheduling the classes at night.

Agriculture will not die in Alaska. Agriculture classes are offered through the UAF extension in Palmer. There are now, and always will be the local farmers, but society in Alaska is too urbanized to support the theory that Alaskans will starve if the Mat-Su Agriculture program is dropped.

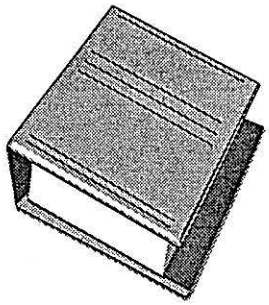
IMPORTANT BOOKSTORE ANNOUNCEMENT

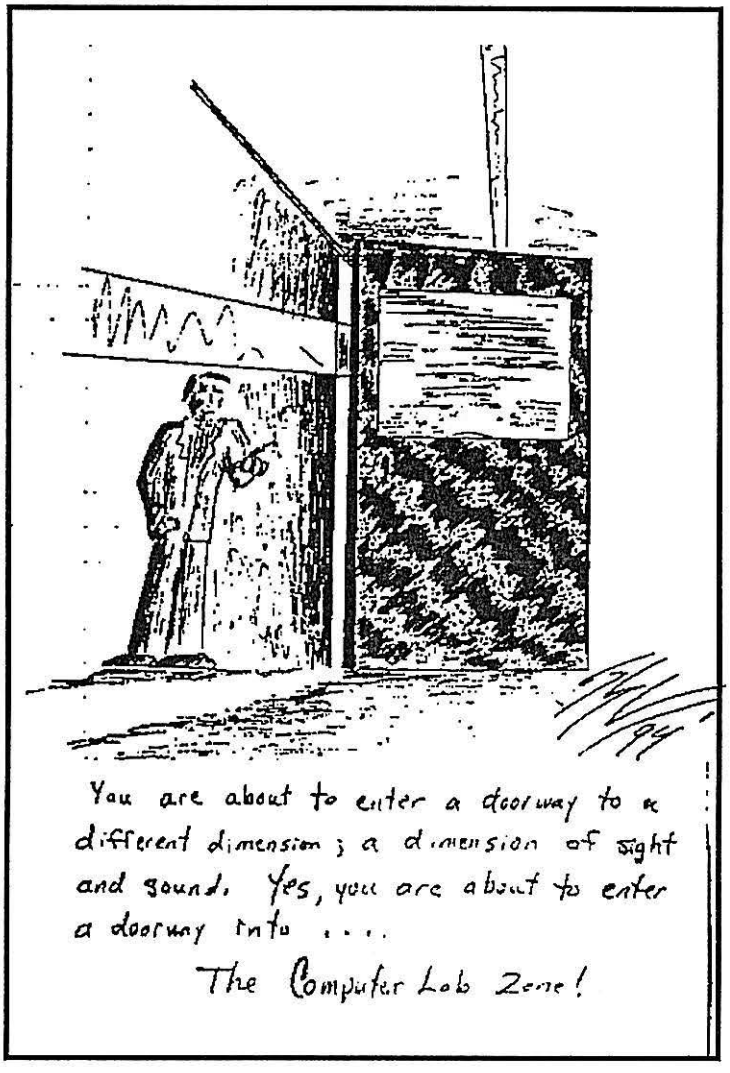
Need money for Christmas, Spring semester or snow tires?

Used textbooks and current semester textbooks (with a retail value) will be purchased from students by Follett Campus Book Company. A Follet representative will be here on campus .



Textbook buyback
December 15, 1994
10am - 7pm
Cafeteria




You are about to enter a doorway to a different dimension; a dimension of sight and sound. Yes, you are about to enter a doorway into . . .
The Computer Lab Zone!

MSC STUDENT PUBLISHES NOVEL

by Kim Kelley

The Mat-Su Monitor is pleased to announce that one of MSC's students has published a book!

Kim Kelley has written an action-adventure novel called ***THE EMPEROR'S THORN.***

The book is about a small band of diehard Americans who refuse to suucumb to overwhelming odds in the New World Order.

For all you adventure buffs out there, this is a good read. Fast action and heart-wrenching events make it a perfect present for all the guys out there, but hey, the gals will love it too!

Support your local businesses and pick up a copy today at any of the Carr's stores.

MSC ARTIST RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Kim Donofrio, a senior candidate for a bachelor of fine arts degree at UAA/MSC and a valley resident, has been awarded the Saradel Ard Scholarship of $1000 by the art department of UAA.

The scholarship is based on exceptional ability and outstanding work accomplished, rather than financial need. It is also weighted towards students who are undertaking a career change.

Art majors at UAA/MSC wishing to apply for the next scholarship may contact the art department at UAA for applications and deadlines. Students should be prepared to submit a personal essay as well as a portfolio and letters of recommendation.

NOTICES

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

The month of December will resound with the music of three groups associated with MSC:

NOONSINGERS: Dec 10 at 7:00 pm at the Methodist Church at Knik and Fairview. This will be a madrigal concert with soup and salad. See members for tickets.

MAT SU COLLEGE COMMUNITY BAND: Dec 4 and 4:00 pm at the Palmer Senior Center, Dec 5 at 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church on Bogard, and Dec 12 at 8:00 pm at the same place. Free to public.

MAT SU COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHORUS: Dec 9 at 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church on Bogard. Free to public.

FREE FILM

The **Art Club** will present two free films, ***Art of the Western World Into the 2oth Century*** and ***Art of the Western World--In Our Own Time***, on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 pm in the Art Room. The public is invited to attend and absorb a little culture, while munching on free popcorn provided by Malevich (white popcorn in a white bowl).

MSC HOSTS MINI-CONFERENCE

The student government of MSC will host a mini-conference for the **NET** on December 3 and 4 at the college. The NET is the Coalition of Student Government Leaders from all the branches of the University of Alaska system.

All students are welcome to attend. Please call the student government office for a schedule of events at 745-9759.

Classifieds

The **Dorothy Saxton Shelter** is recruiting host homes for runaways throughout the Mat-Su Borough, with an empasis in the **Wasilla** area. They are interested in recruiting families who see themselves as able to offer good parenting skills and a stable home environment. Providers will act as a substitute family for a youth in crisis, and must project stability, maturity, and sound moral value principles while respecting values and religious views of the youth and/or the youth's family.

If you are interested now or possibly in the future please call the Dorothy Saxton Shelter at **746-7567** for further information.

The Dorothy Saxton Shelter also has various volunteer jobs available:

Volunteer Coordinator needed to recruit and coordinate volunteer activities. Flexible hours, about 8 hrs/wk. Requires high school education.

Volunteer on-call Relief Case Worker needed to provide assessment and/or placement of youth in a Host Home. Flexible hours, (an intake averages 2 hrs.) This position is for week nights and weekends.

Volunteer Community Outreach Worker needed to assist with community outreach activities related to the Dorothy Saxton Shelter. Flexible hrs. about 8 hrs./wk.

Volunteer Office Assistant needed, duties include answering phones and assisting with program related needs. Flexible hrs., 8 hrs,/wk.

FOR SALE

I.B.M. Select Typewriter $150 376-4417

Books, Civil War, leather bound 26 books total $300 376-4262

IBM Computer, 386, single floppy drive, mouse, joystick,new keyboard. Trade as down for vehicl/OBO 376-5246

Barrow Baleen Basket, see at Wasilla Museum, $1,500, 376-4262.

Grow Lights, 4 tiers $300, 376- 4262

Raffle Tickets
Support our local treatment center
$2.00 ea. Three for $5.00
Win handmade Dollhouse, made by the Nugen's Ranch clients, or a Framed Sidney Lawrence Print.
376-4262

HALLOWEEN WINNERS

The winners of the Halloween contest are:

Students: 1st--Hugh Diehl (Mountain Man), 2nd--Theron Bair (Rastafarian Man), 3rd--Sandra Fikes (witch woman)

Faculty/staff: giant cookie award--Korry Dunham (the Bathroom Lady).

The contest was sponsored by the MSC student government.

<THE CUBE>

By Kelly Pollock

As the end of the semester approaches, I have been thinking about what I have learned, how well do I really know it, and will I remember it well enough to do a good job on the final test? (I'm sure these questions are on every student's mind at this time.) I know for myself, simply memorizing facts from my text books isn't enough. If I can't picture something in my mind or restate it in my own words, then I don't really know it. Some people find highlighting (with a marker) the important points in the their text books helpful, and I don't mean to give those people a hard time (if it works for you, great!), but it doesn't work for me. Reading text that has been highlighted is annoying. It is like having someone else pointing things out and saying, "Here, pay attention to this. This is important," even if it was I who highlighted it. I prefer to read the entire text, get a good, complete picture of what is being said, and decide for myself what the important points are, or what facts best help me remember the ideas being presented. I found a quote that further expresses this concept of learning....

"If you understand something in only one way, then you do not really understand it at all. This is because if something goes wrong , you get stuck with a thought that just sits in your mind with nowhere to go. The secret of what anything means to us depends on how we have connected it to all the other things we know. This is why, when someone learns "by rote," we say that they do not really understand. However, if you have several different representations, when one approach fails, you can try another. Of course, making too many indiscriminate connections will turn a mind to mush. But well-connected representations let you turn ideas around in your mind, to envision things from many perspectives, until you find one that works for you. And that is what we mean by thinking."

As quoted in: ***SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN***, *Will Robots Inherit the Earth?* October, 1994.

You are probably thinking by now that I have forgotten that THE CUBE is supposed to be a column on mathematics. Well, I really haven't, because this method of learning applies to math also. I can memorize various rules and formulas (and that's important), but it isn't until I get a clear picture in my mind of how it's supposed to work that I feel I really know it. I get that wonderful, "Aha! I see it!" and then it is really mine.

Good luck on finals, and Happy Holidays! --Kelly

COUNTRY STYLE POSSUM FOR CHRISTMAS

by Shirley Hendrix

To bake a possum country style, you need to first catch a possum. The best place to find a possum is in a persimmon grove late at night. Take along a good stout burlap bag to throw over the animal so you do not get bitten or scratched. Their teeth and claws are wicked.

The possum should be a female because a male can be tough and smelly. Put the possum in a good pen that she cannot dig under to escape. Feed her for a few days on corn to fatten her up.

When the possum is fat enough for your satisfaction, dispatch her swiftly. After the killing, plunge her into very hot water, not boiling, for two or three minutes. Scrape the hair off without damaging the skin. After scraping, slit the possum from the throat to the hind legs. Remove all the insides, feet, eyes and brains. Do not remove the head or the tail.

Rub the entire carcass, inside and out, with baking soda; then wash it thoroughly. When the possum is ready to cook, wipe it all over with a cool damp cloth and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Put the possum in a heavy iron roaster, add one cup of water, one tablespoon of vinegar, and cover with a heavy lid. Bake the possum in a wood burning iron cook stove for one and a half to two hours, or until brown and tender. When done, place the whole possum on a large platter surrouded by candied yams.

A meal like this is considered a feast down south, especially in Louisianna where I first heard about this recipe. Try it; you might find it worth the effort.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

The student government of MSC will present the ***Annual Christmas Ball*** at Chardonnay's in Palmer on December 17 from 7:00 pm to midnight. The ball will include a delicious dinner of ham and turkey plus all the fixings, as well as a DJ to orchestrate the dancing and for everyone's entertainment. Tickets are available at the student government office for $3 per student and $12.50 for non-students. Please call 745-9759 for more information. Tickets are going fast, so get them quick! There will also be nifty door prizes.